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(d) a circuit responsive to a predetermined condition of said battery, the circuit being operable to uncouple the output voltage of the controller from the terminals of the container upon detection of said predetermined condition substantially determined by said internal impedance.

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6. (twice amended) The battery of Claim 1 wherein said circuit is operable for monitoring the cell internal impedance, the circuit being responsive to a predetermined condition including the cell internal impedance exceeding a predetermined impedance, the circuit uncoupling the output voltage of the controller from the container terminals upon detection of the predetermined condition to generally prevent an over-discharge of the cell.

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12. (twice amended) A multiple-cell battery comprising:

a first container having a positive terminal and a negative terminal;

a first battery cell disposed within said first container, said first battery cell having a positive electrode, a negative electrode, and a battery cell voltage measured across said positive and said negative electrodes of the first battery cell;

a first controller electrically coupled between the electrodes of said first battery cell and the terminals of said first container to create a first container output voltage measured across said first container positive and negative terminals;

a second container electrically coupled to said first container, said second container having a positive terminal and a negative terminal, wherein said positive terminal of said second container is connected to said negative terminal of said first container;

a second battery cell disposed within said second container, said second battery cell having a positive electrode, a negative electrode, and a battery cell voltage measured across said positive and said negative electrodes of the second battery cell;

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a second controller electrically coupled between said electrodes of said second battery cell and said terminals of said second container to create a second container output voltage measured across said second container positive and negative terminals; and  
a circuit responsive to a predetermined condition of said multiple cell battery, the circuit being electrically coupled to one of the first and second controllers to uncouple the respective one of the first and second container output voltages from the terminals of the respective one of the first and second containers upon detection of said predetermined condition.

24. (twice amended) A method for extending the useful life of a battery comprising the steps of:  
providing a battery including:

- (i) a container having a positive terminal and a negative terminal; and  
(ii) a battery cell having an internal impedance disposed within said container, said cell having a positive electrode, a negative electrode, and a cell voltage measured across said positive and said negative electrodes of said cell;

the method being characterized by:  
electrically coupling a controller between said electrodes of said cell and said terminals of said container to form, from the cell voltage, an output voltage across the positive and negative terminals of the container;

in response to detection of a predetermined condition of the battery substantially determined by said internal impedance, uncoupling the output voltage of the controller from the terminals of the container.

Please add Claims 28 and 29 as follows:

28. The multiple cell battery of claim 12, further comprising a housing having an output positive terminal electrically coupled to said first container positive terminal and an output negative terminal electrically coupled to said second container negative terminal, said first